

MM Docket 99-325

Dix Communications



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Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

The Honorable Barbara A. Mikulski
Suite 503
Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Mikulski,

I found it very troubling to learn that the FCC is considering two things that will have a serious negative impact on terrestrial radio, especially in small markets like Cumberland and Frostburg, MD.

The Commission is considering requiring stations to be staffed 24 hours a day 7 days a week because of EAS problems. The problem with EAS is NOT the radio station operators fault. It is inferior equipment used by EAS. The system and its execution needs a serious overhaul. Requiring stations to staff around the clock is basically making radio stations baby sit a failed government system at station expense.

If the governments gets the signal out to properly working equipment, the radio industry does a great job of getting the important warnings on the air. I have to say though that the kind of tones and the delayed low level of voice audio used by EAS is part of the problem, in addition to the poor equipment problems.

In addition, expanding the staffing on thousands of small market radio stations will have a serious impact of the ability for many, many of those stations to continue to operate in a profitable manner. Increased staff and more that likely another round of new EAS equipment to have to purchase will put some stations out of business.

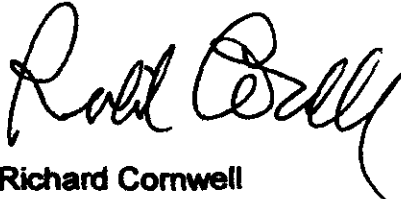
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Secondly, the FCC is considering requiring radio stations to post their entire public file on the stations web sites. As it is in most businesses, web sites can be very basic or very elaborate. Most small market stations are the former. We presently are required to post our yearly EEO reports on our web sites and we do post them. The entire public file is mad up of many, many files. Some of those files are updated on a weekly or monthly basis. Transferring all the paperwork to a website will require expertise and computer skills that most small market stations to not have on staff. We keep our files up to date and I do find the idea to be totally without need and it certainly does not have any effect on our ability to broadcast in the public interest.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. You may contact me at any time about my concerns which are addressed in this letter.

Sincerely,

WTBO-WKGO CORP LLC

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard Cornwell", written in a cursive style.

Richard Cornwell
General Manager